

REMARKS

In response to the non-final office action of January 8, 2008, applicants ask that all claims be allowed in view of the amendment to the claims and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11, 12, and 14-28 are currently pending, of which claims 1, 12, 21, and 27 are independent. Claims 1, 12, and 21 have been amended, claim 10 has been cancelled, and claims 27 and 28 have been added. Support for these amendments and new claims may be found in the application at, for example, page 28, line 26 through page 36, line 26 referring to Figs. 7-9. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1, 3-12, and 14-28 have been rejected as being anticipated by Kil (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0115192). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because Kil fails to describe or suggest the subject matter of independent claims 1, 12, and 21, as described below.

As amended, independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, performing sub-processes in an order identified by user-defined data that includes sub-process indicators that identify sub-processes and provides an indication identifying an order for performing identified sub-processes. Applicants submit that Kil fails to describe or suggest at least these features.

Specifically, Kil describes a system configured to assist a user in defining a data mining operation. See Kil at Abstract. More specifically, the Kil system is configured to receive, from a user, natural language input describing a goal of a data mining operation and process the natural language input to identify a data mining operation that achieves the described goal. See Kil at paragraphs [0017] and [0018]. The Kil natural language input, however, does not include sub-process indicators that identify sub-processes, nor provide an indication identifying an order for performing identified sub-processes. Rather, the Kil natural language input describes a goal of a data mining operation without identifying operations to achieve the described goal.

In addition, in rejecting claim 10, which, prior to its cancellation, included a limitation similar to the present amendment of claim 1, the Office Action refers to paragraphs [0070] and [0096] of Kil. However, these paragraphs of Kil, at most, describe that a user may rank input fields used in a data mining operation. The Kil ranked input fields enable a user to assign a level of contribution to a particular input used in the data mining operation. Assigning a level of contribution to a particular input, however, does not identify an order for performing sub-

processes in the data mining operation. Instead, the assigned level of contribution impacts how much weight a particular input is given during the data mining operation without impacting an order with which the data mining operation is performed. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that Kil fails to describe or suggest performing sub-processes in an order identified by user-defined data that includes sub-process indicators that identify sub-processes and provides an indication identifying an order for performing identified sub-processes, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 3-9, 11, and 22-26.

Although different in scope than claim 1 and each other, independent claims 12 and 21 recite features similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 1, and do so in the context of a computer-readable medium and a system. Accordingly, for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 12 and its dependent claims 14-20 and independent claim 21.

New independent claim 27 recites a computer-implemented method for performing a data analysis process that includes, *inter alia*, for each sub-process indicator, identifying a computer program that corresponds to the sub-process indicator and that is configured to perform the sub-process identified by the sub-process indicator, configuring at least one of the identified computer programs to use at least one database identified by at least one database indicator, configuring at least one of the identified computer programs to use at least one meta-data attribute selected based on user input, and performing a data analysis process by executing each of the identified computer programs, including the at least one configured computer program, in an order that is based on the order for performing the sub-processes identified by the order data. Applicants submit that Kil fails to describe or suggest at least these features. Accordingly, applicants submit that new independent claim 27 and its dependent claim are allowable.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to

concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.136, Applicants hereby petition that the period for response be extended for two months to and including June 9, 2008.

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

The fee in the amount of \$720.00 in payment for the excess claim fee (\$260) and the two-month extension of time fee (\$460) is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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